



MINUTES

SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION September 17, 2012

The Sustainability Commission met in regular session in the West Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. with Chair Harrison presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present:

Commission Chair Sue Harrison
Commissioner Joe Green-Heffern
Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto
Commissioner Gerry Glaser
Commissioner Dan Hafeman
Commissioner Andy Frazer

Commission Members Absent:

Commission Vice Chair Srivastava (Unexcused)

Council Liaison: Councilmember Jim Davis (Present)

Staff Present: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager
Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison
Jack Witthaus, Transportation/Traffic Manager

Guest: Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Jack Witthaus, Traffic and Transportation Manager, discussed aspects of the City's traffic and transportation program and answered questions from the Commission.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of August 20, 2012.

Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Hafeman seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 20 with minor changes. Commissioner Fukumoto requested the minutes reflect the title of the State report on climate change and to change the reference to IBCC to IPCC.

VOTE: 4-0-2 (Vote to approve was unanimous; Commissioner Green-Heffern and Frazer abstain)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

1. ACTION: CCA Subcommittee Vacancy

Commissioner Fukumoto indicated that she was unable to participate on the CCA Subcommittee. The Commission selected a new member of the CCA subcommittee as a result of the vacancy.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded a motion to appoint Commissioner Frazer as a member of the Sustainability Commission CCA Subcommittee.

VOTE 6-0 (Vote was unanimous)

2. ACTION: Proposal of Study Issues

Commissioner Glaser initiated a discussion on a study issue regarding the development of an energy efficiency and water conservation revolving loan fund. The concept of the fund would be

that City funds could be utilized to fund energy efficiency and water conservation projects for businesses and residents. Project eligibility would be based on the estimated payback. The study would identify the mechanism to set up the revolving loan fund, functional guidelines and educational components of a project.

Commissioner Fukumoto made a motion to recommend a study issue that would create a revolving loan fund available to residents and businesses of the City utilizing City funding to initiate energy efficiency and water conservation projects and demonstrate the cost effectiveness of such projects. Commissioner Glaser seconded the motion.

Vote 6-0 (Vote was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava absent)

The Commission received a presentation from Transportation staff earlier in the evening. Subsequently, Commissioner Glaser initiated a conversation on the City's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program.

Commissioner Glaser made a motion to recommend a study to study staffing and extending of the TDM program so that the City can better monitor and extend TDM to smaller entities. Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded the motion.

Vote 6-0 (Vote was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava absent)

Commissioner Fukumoto initiated a conversation regarding energy benchmarking of buildings. Commissioner Fukumoto presented an idea that provides a carrot in the form of competition to encourage businesses to shrink their energy usage. Those who reduce their energy usage would be recognized or rewarded in some way. Examples provided include the "Build Your Own Challenge" or "Battle of the Buildings."

Commissioner Fukumoto made a motion to recommend a study to explore ways to aid and encourage businesses to voluntarily reduce energy and water consumption of their buildings preferably by utilizing existing recognition programs. Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded.

Vote 3-0-3 (Vote failed; Commissioners Harrison, Glaser and Frazer abstain; Commissioner Srivastava absent)

Commissioner Fukumoto raised concern over a recent approval of a drive-thru on El Camino Real. Commissioner Fukumoto felt that the drive-thru is not consistent with the City's specific plan.

Commissioner Fukumoto made a motion to study the feasibility of disallowing drive-thru's in station areas, El Camino nodes and areas focusing on enhanced walkability. Commissioner Hafeman seconded the motion.

Vote 2-2-2 (Vote failed; Commissioner Green-Heffern and Glaser vote NO; Commissioner Frazer and Harrison abstain; Commissioner Srivastava absent)

Commissioner Glaser raised the issue of Power Purchase Agreements which would facilitate the City having alternative energy infrastructure constructed at City facilities at no capital, operating or maintenance costs. In exchange, the City would guarantee to purchase the power produced from the provider at a fixed rate for a determined time period, typically 20 years. Commissioner Glaser spoke to his motion indicating he thinks it is good because it does not say where power has to come from and suggested where one area of focus for evaluation should be.

Commissioner Glaser made a motion for a study evaluating increasing the use of alternative energy for City operations, such as using a Power Purchase Agreement. Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion.

Vote 6-0 (Vote was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava absent)

Commissioner Fukumoto initiated a conversation on the idea of private funding for public projects. The idea would be that a list of energy efficiency and renewable project could be create and provided to businesses who may be interested in funding them and to have their name attached to the project.

Commissioner Fukumoto made a motion for a study issue to create a prioritized list of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for private sponsorship. Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded the motion.

Vote 3-0-3 (Vote failed; Commissioner Glaser, Commissioner Harrison and Hafeman abstain; Commissioner Srivastava absent)

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Glaser provided the Commission an update on his efforts with the CCA Subcommittee. Commissioner Glaser spoke with representatives of Santa Clara County, Marin and Palo Alto regarding CCA's.

Commissioner Green-Heffern commented that during his trip to Germany he saw solar installations in some amazing locations. Commissioner Green-Heffern commented on the prevalence of solar panels on sound walls.

Commissioner Harrison attended a Sunpac meeting and met a gentleman that collects unrecyclable, dirty plastic and turns it into diesel fuel.

Commissioner Green-Heffern and Commissioner Harrison will be attending a meeting of the Lawrence Station Area Plan advisory group.

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that the Silicon Valley Watershed Summit is Saturday, September 22, from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Foothill College. The event is hosted by the Foothill Center for a Sustainable Future and funded by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and the Sempervirens Fund. For more information and to register visit: <http://www.acterra.org/watershedsummit/index.html>

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that there will be a "Jobs, Housing, Transit and Traffic" presentation Thursday, October 18, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum. Vu-Bang Nguyen, Land Use and Housing Coordinator for Urban Habitat, shows how the shortage of housing and lack of quality transit near job centers results in long commutes, congestion, social equity issues and environmental harm and offers solutions.

Commissioner Harrison commented that there is a BRT in Sunnyvale presentation sponsored by VTA discussing the next steps for Sunnyvale on Friday, September 21.

Staff Comments

Sustainability Coordinator Clark discussed efforts with Joint Venture Silicon Valley to secure a location and confirm logistics regarding the informational CCA presentation to be hosted in Sunnyvale that includes potential governmental partners interested in a CCA partnership.

Sustainability Coordinator Clark announced that the Fall BAWSCA Landscape Education Series gets underway in September 22. The City will be hosting 4 classes highlighting California natives, water efficient irrigation and edible gardening. The classes will be held at the Senior Center September 22, October 6, October 13 and November 10. All classes are free and go from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Reviewed by: John Stuffelbean, Director of Environmental Services
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager